



California Department of Fish and Game Elk Management Program 2004 Hunt Information

Wildlife Programs Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

INDEPENDENCE ZONE **OWENS VALLEY TULE ELK HUNT**

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR HUNT ZONE

This information has been prepared to assist elk hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, the Independence Hunt Zone located in Inyo County. The following information should be useful to general season hunters within this geographic area.

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter, who knows the laws and regulations, will enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2004/mammalregs04.html.

To hunt elk in this zone, hunters must possess an Independence elk tag. This tag is valid during the general season, and hunters are required to use an appropriate method of take. All tag-holders will be required to attend a mandatory orientation. Hunters will be notified of the time and location of the orientation meeting upon receipt of their elk license tags. Season dates vary annually; thus, be sure to check the current regulations for the specific dates.

To receive a tag for this hunt, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit elk tag applications by the first business day after June 1. For information regarding elk tag application procedures and obtaining an elk tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>.

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill, where they killed the animal, attach the tag to the antlers (or ears, if Antlerless), have the tag validated and countersigned, and **return the completed report card portion to the department within one week after the close of the season. All hunters are required to return their report card portion, whether the hunt was successful or not.** Hunters are asked **not** to submit their elk's teeth in any type of plastic wrapping; instead, send it in the envelope provided.

LAND OWNERSHIP/ PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

The Independence Hunt Zone contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Land within the zone is administered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Fort Independence Indian Reservation. Access to Native American land may be restricted. A significant portion of Owens Valley is also owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). There is an excellent chance of seeing elk almost everyday of the hunt. Elk are generally found on the valley floor, a few miles on either side of the Owens River. The terrain consists of open country. Hunters are advised to stay out of cultivated fields. Hunters must obtain and have in their possession, written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter

trespass laws are strictly enforced. For information and/or maps regarding these lands, contact the following:

DFG Offices:

Bishop Field Office, 407 West Line Street, Bishop, CA. 93514 (Phone: 760-872-1171)

BLM Offices:

Bishop Field Office, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100, Bishop, CA 93514 (Phone: 760-872-5000)

USFS Offices:

Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514 (Phone: 760-873-2400)

Throughout California, additional elk hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM, the primary species managed on each PLM, and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to following link: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>.

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zones or additional elk hunt boundaries, go to the following link: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/elk/maps/independence.pdf>. It is recommended that hunters obtain an Inyo National Forest map, as it indicates LADWP land, U.S. National Forest and National Park land, major access roads, and local dirt roads.

USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA. 94592 (Phone: 707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. Hunters can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA. 95825 (Phone: 916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM Maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking, or engineering stores, or hunter can contact the USGS directly at: U.S. Geological Distribution Center, Denver Federal Center, Box 25286, Denver, CO. 80225 (Phone: 888-ASK-USGS, 888-275-8747).

CAMPING

No camping is allowed on LADWP land. Camping is available on nearby BLM and U.S. Forest Service land.

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Primary roadways for the Independence hunt include U.S. Highway 395, Aberdeen Station Road, Papoose Flat Road, and Mazourka Canyon Road. Good access to public land. Hunters are advised to scout local dirt roads within the hunt zone.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Historical information on elk harvest for this area is available in the table(s) at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/elk/independencehunt.htm>. This statistical information may be useful for the purposes of planning and/or applying for elk tags in this zone. Each table contains the specific year, number of applications received, number of tags issued, amount of elk harvested, and the percentage of hunter success for each year.